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Events Celebrate Diversity Month, Illustrate Power of BC Law Community

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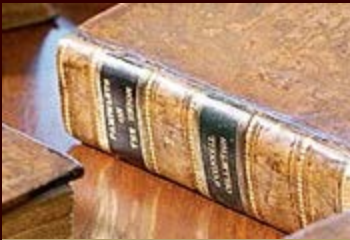
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Events Celebrate Diversity Month, Illustrate Power of BC Law Community

2013 NEWS ARCHIVE

04/10/13

AHANAS Year-end Gala Celebrates One Community

Newton, MA—Boston College Law School's "[one community](#)" approach to diversity took another step forward recently when the School's AHANAS population of diverse student organizations joined together to celebrate their year. The first annual AHANAS Year-End Gala was held at the Cadigan Center on the Boston College Brighton Campus, and brought a crowd of nearly 150 people. Dean Vincent Rougeau and other deans, faculty and staff were also in attendance.

"What an amazing event," said Tracey West, Associate Dean for External Relations, Diversity & Inclusion. "In previous years, our diverse student orgs all held their own year-end celebrations, but bringing them together as one really served to highlight their successes and showcase what we all already know: we are truly one community. These students are absolutely incredible examples of the very best BC Law has to offer."

Minita Shah-Mara from event sponsor Bingham McCutchen delivered remarks to the crowd, followed by keynote speaker Pratt Wiley '06, former president of the Law Students Association and most recently overseeing voter rights with the Democratic National Committee. Wiley spoke on how BC Law prepared him for the various challenges he's faced in his career, whether in the private sector or in public service positions.



The Gala organizers, from left to right: Miguel Saldana, President, LALSA; Abhijit Karup, President, SALSA; Tracey West, Associate Dean for External Relations, Diversity & Inclusion; Shantel Watters, President, BLSA; Sherry Ly, President, APALSA; Evelyn Fanneron and Natalia Belland, Co-presidents, NALSA.

Lambda Seder Draws Crowd, Raves from Attendees

In another recent event celebrating diversity, BC Law's Jewish Law Students Association and

Lambda organization held their first annual Pride Seder. Barat House on the Law School campus was filled to capacity for the event, which featured the traditional Passover Seder readings and included many faculty, staff, and students from the two sponsoring groups, as well as the Black Law Students Association, the Latin American Law Students Association, and the Native American Law Students Association.

According to the Jeremy Sherer, the President of JLSA and co-organizer along with Lambda co-chairs Jason Triplett and Sam Jockel, the Pride Seder was intended as part of a long and proud Jewish tradition of Freedom Seders, and was indicative of a close and supportive relationship between the two groups. "From Seders held with leaders of the American civil rights movement to feminist Seders to Seders raising awareness of the plight of Soviet Jewry, the Seder has long been a vehicle for raising awareness and calling out for social change," Sherer said. "We felt compelled to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with those at BC Law and elsewhere struggling against the type of injustice at the very heart of the Passover story."

Rabbi Jay Perlman of Temple Shalom in Needham helped plan the Seder, and was on hand to explain some of the rituals to those who had not been to one before. "We focused our English readings on the current struggle for LGBT equality," Sherer said. "A particularly special part of the Seder was when we asked attendees to reflect on present day plagues, and went around our individual tables sharing our individual thoughts about the modern day problems that bothered us most in our society. This event was about coming together as a community... Holding this event with our classmates and professors at BC Law made it that much more special, as we were thrilled to share this holiday and our culture with other members of the law school community."

